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RABIES CASE CONFIRMED; ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS WARN RESIDENTS TO VACCINATE PETS

(Frisco – October 5, 2005) The City of Frisco urges residents to vaccinate their pets against rabies, following the city's first confirmed case of rabies this year.

The Texas Department of Health confirms a skunk found October 3, in a backyard in the vicinity of Hillcrest and Lebanon, tested positive for rabies.

City animal control officers say a homeowner called them after she found a live skunk in her backyard. City officials say the homeowner went outside to investigate why her dogs were barking and found the skunk.

Three family dogs came in contact with the skunk; however, the pets had 'current' booster vaccinations and are under home quarantine. The dogs are being monitored, daily, by Frisco animal control officers and will remain under quarantine for 45 days. To date, the dogs have not shown any symptoms of rabies.

Animal control officers remind residents that skunks are naturally nocturnal animals and typically venture out only at night. Symptoms of rabid skunks include crusty eyes and noses, disorientation and staggering.

If a skunk is spotted during the day, residents should contact Animal Control at 972-335-5580, ext. 137.

Animal Control reminds residents to do the following to guard against rabies:

1. **Have a veterinarian vaccinate your dogs and cats against rabies.**
Rabies vaccinations are required by ordinance. Keeping your pets vaccinated protects you and them.
2. **Restrain your pets; do not allow them to roam.** There is a 'leash law' in the City of Frisco.

3. **Avoid contact with wild animals and with dogs and cats you do not know.** Do not approach strange dogs or cats. Do not try to hand-feed wild animals and do not keep them as pets.
4. **Do not touch sick or injured animals.** Call and report them to Animal Control at 972-335-5580, ext. 137.

The City of Frisco requires vaccination of all dogs and cats over three months of age. To register your animal, please contact your local veterinarian or the SPCA.

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